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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/698,070

10/30/2003

Frederic J. Kaye

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EXAMINER

VIVLEMORE, TRACY ANN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1635

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/28/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/698,070	Applicant(s) KAYE ET AL.	
	Examiner Tracy Vivlemore	Art Unit 1635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-11, 16, 20-22 and 47-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 6-11, 16, 20-22 and 67-70 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 47-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Any rejection not reiterated in this Action is withdrawn.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 5, 2008 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 6-11, 16, 20-22 and 67-70 are directed to an allowable product. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(B), claims 47-62, directed to the process of making or using an allowable product, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

Because all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, **the restriction requirement as set forth in the Office action mailed on May 2, 2005 is hereby withdrawn.** In view of the withdrawal of the

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restriction requirement as to the rejoined inventions, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 47-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for inhibiting translation of Mect1-MAML2 chimeric gene in a cell *in vitro*, does not reasonably provide enablement for inhibiting translation of Mect1-MAML2 chimeric gene in cells *in vivo*. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The following factors as enumerated *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988), are considered when making a determination that a disclosure is not enabling: the breadth of the claims, the nature of the invention, the state of the prior art, the level of ordinary skill in the art, the level of predictability in the

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art, the amount of direction provided by the inventor, the existence of working examples and the quantity of experimentation needed to make the invention based on the content of the disclosure.

The claims are directed to use of the products of claims 6 or 16 to inhibit translation of a Mect1-MAML2 chimeric gene in a cell. In specific embodiments the cells are in a host that may be a mammal or a human and the cell may be a cancerous cell.

The specification contemplates that the claimed products could be used in cells *in vivo*, including cancerous cells. The specification discloses in the working examples use of siRNAs targeted to Mect1-MAML2 in cultured cells. The working examples do not disclose the use of Mect1-MAML2 siRNAs to inhibit the gene in any organism.

Problems related to *in vivo* and therapeutic use of nucleic acids were well known in the art at the time of invention (see for example Opalinska et al. (Nature Reviews Drug Discovery, 2002, vol. 1, p. 503-514)). Such problems include the inability to specifically deliver an effective concentration of a nucleic acid to a target cell, such that a target gene is inhibited to a degree necessary to result in a therapeutic effect.

Opalinska et al. state on page 511

"[I]t is widely appreciated that the ability of nucleic-acid molecules to modify gene expression *in vivo* is quite variable, and therefore wanting in terms of reliability. Several issues have been implicated as a root cause of this problem, including molecule delivery to targeted cells and specific compartments within cells and identification of sequence that is accessible to hybridization in the genomic DNA or RNA"

and in column 2 of the same page,

"Another problem in this field is the limited ability to deliver nucleic acids into cells and have them reach their target. Without this ability, it is clear that even an appropriately targeted sequence is not likely to be efficient. As a general rule, oligonucleotides are taken up primarily through a combination

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of adsorptive and fluid-phase endocytosis. After internalization, confocal and electron microscopy studies have indicated that the bulk of the oligonucleotides enter the endosome-lysosome compartment, in which most of the material becomes either trapped or degraded.”

Given this unpredictability, the skilled artisan would require specific guidance to practice the claimed methods *in vivo* in all organisms, with a resultant inhibition of gene expression, as claimed. The specification provides examples performed in cultured cells, however, cell culture examples are generally not predictive of *in vivo* inhibition and the methods of delivery of the exemplified cell line would not be applicable to delivery of oligonucleotides to any organism. Due to differences in the physiological conditions of a cell *in vitro* versus *in vivo*, the uptake and biological activity observed *in vitro* would not predictably translate to *in vivo* results. Given these teachings, the skilled artisan would not know *a priori* whether introduction of oligonucleotides *in vivo* by the broadly disclosed methodologies of the instant invention, would result in the oligonucleotide reaching the proper cell in a sufficient concentration and remaining for a sufficient time to provide successful inhibition of expression of a target gene. In fact, the state of the art is such that successful delivery of oligonucleotide sequences *in vivo* or *in vitro*, such that the polynucleotide or oligonucleotide provides the requisite biological effect to the target cells/tissues/organs, must be determined empirically.

The specification does not provide the guidance required to overcome the art-recognized unpredictability of using nucleic acids in *in vivo* and therapeutic applications in any organism. The teachings of the prior art does not provide that guidance, such that the skilled artisan would be able to practice the claimed therapeutic methods.

Thus, while the specification is enabling for the examples set forth in the specification, the specification is not enabling for *in vivo* use as the art of inhibiting gene expression by introducing nucleic acids into an organism is neither routine nor predictable. The amount of experimentation required is such that one of skill in the art could not practice the invention commensurate in scope with the claims without undue, trial and error experimentation and therefore, claims 47-62 are not enabled.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tracy Vivlemore whose telephone number is 571-272-2914. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James (Doug) Schultz, can be reached on 571-272-0763. The central FAX Number is 571-273-8300.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within

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5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Tracy Vivlemore
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